



Senator

Liz Figueroa

Tenth Senatorial District

June 23, 2003

Contact: Anna Blackshaw, (916) 322-8616

Anne.Blackshaw@sen.ca.gov

Ed Howard, (916) 445-6671

Ed.Howard@sen.ca.gov

MEDIA ADVISORY

SENATE HEARING TO ADDRESS IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS ON STATE'S ABILITY TO ENACT BIOTECHNOLOGY LAWS

- WHAT:** Senate Select Committee on International Trade Policy and State Legislation hearing, "Biotechnology, International Trade Agreements and the Risks to California Legislative Power."
- WHO:** Farmers, farmworker and consumer advocates, trade experts and representatives from the biotechnology industry.
- WHEN:** Tuesday, June 24, 2003; 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
- WHERE:** California State Capitol Room 3191
- WHY:** The hearing coincides with the Senate Office of Research's recently released study on biotechnology, the June 23-25 Ministerial Conference and Expo on Agricultural Science and Technology, and the recent U.S. initiation of a World Trade Organization (WTO) trade dispute against the European Union (EU) challenging the EU's temporary moratorium on imports of genetically modified organism (GMO) crops.

It will address questions as: Could the U.S.'s case trigger a retaliatory case that could affect precautionary measures adopted by California and other states? Can trade negotiations impact California laws on labeling, agricultural markets and consumer protection? Is it in the best interest of California's unique agricultural export economy to increase the use of GMOs when a growing number of countries have imposed restrictions on the importation of GMO crops due to public health concerns?

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Capitol Office:

State Capitol, Room 2057
Sacramento, CA 95814-4906
Tel: (916) 445-6671
Fax: (916) 327-2433

District Office:

43801 Mission Blvd, No. 103
Fremont, CA 94539
Tel: (510) 413-5960 or (408) 286-0329
Fax: (510) 413-5965

E-Mail:

senator.figueroa@sen.ca.gov

Website:

www.sen.ca.gov/figueroa